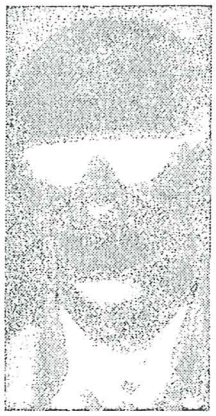
3 mystery lake trips by Bremer



Arthur Bremer

MILWAUKEE — (AP) — A Milwaukee ferry manager says Arthur H. Bremer appeared with a swarthy, well-dressed companion to arrange the first of three mysterious trips Bremer made across Lake Michigan in the weeks preceding the wounding of Gov. George C. Wallace.

Bremer, 21, is charged with shooting Wallace on May 15. Mounting evidence indicates he followed the Alabafa governor for more than two months.

Records of the Chesapeake & Ohio R.R. in Milwaukee show that Bremer took the C&O ferry from Milwaukee to Ludington, Mich., on April 9 and May 9. Records in Ludington show he made the 97-mile trip in the opposite direction on April 28.

THE C&O ferry-trainmaster, Earl S. Nunnery, told the Associated Press he recalls that Bremer and a man who appeared to be of Greek descent made arrangements for the ferry trips.

A third person was traveling with the men but did not enter the ferry office, Nunnery said.

This was the first report that Bremer had companions in the weeks preceding the shooting. Acquaintances have described him as a solitary, virtually friendless figure.

FBI agents questioned Nunnery and examined ferry records after the ferry managers' interview with the AP. The FBI has repeatedly declined comment on its investigations.

BREMEN HAD been seen in Milwaukee at a Wallace celebration just 2½ blocks from his apartment on April 4, the night of the Wisconsin primary. It was in the next day or two, according to Nunnery, that Bremer appeared at the ferry office on the Milwaukee docks with the unidentified man.

Nunnery said Bremers' companion talked excitedly about moving a political campaign from Wisconsin to Michigan, but never named a candidate.

Nunnery said he told Bremer and the other man that he could not make advance reservations at this time of year.

WITHIN ANOTHER day or two, Bremer registered at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City and was there April 7-8, according to hotel records.

Yet by the evening of April 9, Bremer was back in Milwaukee in time to catch the 8:15 p.m. ferry for the six-hour trip to Ludington. Ferry records list his name and the license number of his 1967 blue Rambler, now impounded in Maryland.

Records on the Ludington side of Lake Michigan list Bremer as returning to Milwaukee on the 8:07 p.m. ferry April 28

Between these two ferry trips — on April 15 — Bremer was ticketed for speeding in Binghamton, N.Y.

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THE BALTIMORE Sun reported that at 2:15 a.m. on April 15 Bremer checked into the Sheraton Motor Inn in New Carrollton, Md., a 15-minute drive from the Laurel shopping center where Wallace was shot.

The Sun said Bremer stayed three days and tried to check in again the weekend before the shooting but was told the motel was filled. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, another Democratic presidential candidate, attended a political breakfast in the motel that morning.

On May 9, Bremer took his third ferry trip, arriving in Ludington about noon.

HE WAS spotted at midafternoon the next day in Cadillac, Mich., 72 miles from Ludington, where Wallace was to speak at an evening rally.

He was seen at a Dairy Queen drive-in about 3 p.m. by an 18-year-old girl, reportedly was spotted at an inn between 4 and 6 p.m., and was seen by at least three persons and photographed at the Wallace rally where he sat in the third row.

After another apparently quick trip over hundreds of miles, Bremer turned up, according to photographs and an eyewitness, at a Wallace rally in Landover, Md., on May 11. Two days later, he was spotted and identified from photographs at another Wallace event in Kalamazoo, Mich., and on May 15, he was arrested at the Laurel shopping center where Wallace was shot.